

these young lives will not be forgotten. To those still on the front lines, we pledge our unity, our support and our prayers for their safety and speedy return back home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SPECIAL TRIBUTE FOR AMERICAN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my friend from Texas tonight to pay a special tribute to some genuine American heroes and one in particular. Last week, I met with the mother, Maria, the mother of Sergeant Juan Calderon, Jr., and I must tell my colleagues, those were very, very difficult times. And they are very difficult times for her, and it was not easy for me.

In the book of John, the good shepherd says, "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Sergeant Juan Calderon did exactly that on Monday, August 2. He died in a military hospital while fighting and doing operations in Iraq.

Sergeant Calderon was a native of Weslaco, Texas, as the gentleman just preceding me said. He was a resident of Camp Pendleton, California. I had the opportunity to meet with his mother, Maria, who lives in Alden, Minnesota. He has many friends and relatives in the Alden and Albert Lee area. His father, Juan, Sr., still resides in Texas. Calderon's wife of 3 years lives at Camp Pendleton in California and, I regret to say, is expecting their first child.

Calderon's awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

Juan Calderon's sister said recently in an interview with the Albert Lee Tribune, "Juan, Jr., was a big comedian. He was full of life. He was excited to actually go to Iraq and serve his country. He was always proud to serve and proud of what he was doing."

Calderon's father recently received a letter, and reported in the Associated Press was an account where his son had written to him where he said, "Don't worry about me. You raised me for 19 years. Now it is time for me to do something to repay you."

I would like to repeat a story, though, because I think sometimes we need to be reminded that what we are doing there is important. Recently, in

a story about an Iraqi translator, a woman whose children were taken away from her more than 6 months ago, her husband beat her. Her brother threatened her life while holding a gun to her head, and her own father contracted for her death with a \$500,000 reward. All of this because she was assisting the American coalition. She said, "You, the soldiers and marines, come from America to help my country. I must help you help my people. I see these soldiers that lose their lives for Iraqis. They come into our country and die for us. We must appreciate these guys. I appreciate the Army and the Marines. I love them."

Ronald Reagan used to say, those who say that we are in a time where there are no heroes, well, they just don't know where to look. On August 2, we lost several heroes. One of them, Sergeant Juan Calderon, Jr., will be mourned. He will be missed. He will not be forgotten.

Sergeant Calderon did not die in vain. Freedom must prevail. May Almighty God have mercy on this good and faithful servant. May He continue to bless this country and all who defend her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A PROMINENT POLITICIAN'S PLAN FOR IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues may recall, I previously asked to see a plan for the reconstruction and the future for Iraq, and that has happened. And I would like to examine what I will refer to as a prominent politician's plan for Iraq. It is a four-point plan.

The first part is that, "The President has to get the promise of international support so our men and women in uniform don't have to go it alone."

I would like to point out that this is one more insult to the 30 countries whose troops are fighting and risking their lives next to ours, including Hungary, whose speaker was here today.

The prominent politician then went on to say that the United Nations Resolution 1546, which urged other countries to come and wage the peace in Iraq, he at least then pointed out "that

3 months later, not a single country has answered that call."

My concern is that the best way he can come up with to solve that problem is to do what Washington always does. He wants to call a meeting, and he wants to invite to that meeting the major powers of the world and Iraq's neighbors to figure out how to work the security. Now, I for one do not suggest that anyone here hold their breath while we wait for France, let alone Syria and Iran, to RSVP to that meeting.

He then goes on to talk about what we have to do to get more allies is to let them "help develop the oil resources in Iraq."

Now, it seems to me odd that someone who has accused the people who are fighting with us, next to us, in Iraq are being bought, bribed, coerced, extorted, et cetera, that he now believes that, like Saddam proved in the Oil For Food scandal, that the way to the U.N.'s heart is paved with black gold because to build a new alliance, you insult our old allies, our current allies and then offer them the resources of the Iraqi people through their oil. It speaks for itself.

We also hear that somehow this multilateralism is our fault, which I find fascinating. But the reality remains that it is not our fault.

This four-point plan then goes on to talk about rebuilding Iraq's security forces and talks about how the President "must get serious about training Iraqi security forces."

Well, I have news for the prominent politician. The President is serious about rebuilding Iraq's internal security forces and its army. Unfortunately, the terrorists are just as serious about killing them before they get started. Unfortunately, nowhere does this plan reference that reality on the ground in Iraq.

It is then pointed out, something which I agree with, that the Iraqi people must feel a more palpable result of this reconstruction. I have agreed with that since last fall when I started saying that, and I have continued to say it. The problem is that the plan then goes into a top-down change in the contracting process, to emphasize "a few on a list of high-visibility, quick-impact projects" for "an Iraqi where the job is less likely to shoot at our soldiers."

My problem with this is this is not an Iraqi empowerment plan, it is a PR campaign. For the Record, the militia is not fighting for a public works project, and Zarqawi is not an Iraqi. He is a Jordanian. The true empowerment in Iraq's reconstruction must come from the grassroots, through allowing tribal leaders, through allowing town councils, through allowing the national government and religious leaders to make the decisions on what projects are important and giving them the resources to implement them and build their own stake in their free future.

Finally, there is the intriguing argument that somehow the goal in Iraq is